

## Summary of January 15, 2014 RM 10.9 Removal Action Status Teleconference

### Attendees

- EPA (Stephanie Vaughn)
- dmi (Stan Kaczmarek and John Rolfe)
- CH2M HILL (George Hicks, Gary Foster, Jim Brinkman and Roy Weller)
- CDM (Sharon Budney, Frank Tsang and Amy Picunas)
- USACOE (Beth Franklin)

### Discussion Points:

#### 1. Revised Capping Plan - Overview and Questions

Gary Foster asked if there were any questions related to Revision 9 of the Capping Plan.

- a. CDM suggested that it be noted on p.8 that calibration and re-positioning of the monitoring buoys may be required due to ice impacts from the recent cold snap. CH2M HILL replied that several buoys did need to be pulled and will need to be redeployed. dmi asked EPA to consider whether monitoring buoys are still needed. **EPA indicated that they will consider if the buoys need to be re-deployed, but are not yet ready to make that determination.**
- b. CDM recommended that the text on p.12 section 5.2 referring to the 8" minimum thickness for the Active Layer be expanded by also talking about the ongoing design need for the area-wide average 10" thickness. CH2M HILL agreed that the average thickness of 10" across the Removal Area will still be met.
- c. CDM asked if the sinking bar method described in Section 5.3.1 can cause damage to the active layer. CH2M HILL said that the fabric and bar will not be dragged on the surface of the active layer during deployment and thus will not cause damage to the active layer. CDM asked if this method had been used on any other projects. CH2M HILL stated that it has not.
- d. CDM asked about the 3' section along the edge of the fabric that will be left without rock prior to placement of the adjacent panel, specifically how it will be controlled from curling and folding back upon itself. CH2M HILL stated that the fabric will be deployed during a favorable tide so as to minimize the fabrics movement or fold over. GLDD may also have to use additional equipment to unfold any of the fabric edges that may have shifted. EPA asked if the 18" fabric overlap could be overkill. CH2M HILL stated that the 18" is needed to keep armor stone separated from active layer. **CDM stated that a contingency procedure should be developed to fix the overlapped fabric should it curl up prior to placing the armor stone.**
- e. CDM asked about the frame method of deployment. Has this method been used before? How does that water get out from below the fabric? As the frame is pulled up, how is the fabric going to fall back flat and not fold over? As with the Sinking Bar method, **CDM thinks that a method to fix fabric that folds over needs to be developed**

**for this method too.** CH2M HILL stated that the speed the frame is lowered will be dictated by the rate the water is displaced below the fabric. GLDD will use additional equipment or methods to address the possible fold-over issues. CDM then asked about changes requested by GLDD related to the orientation of fabric panels and sewing of seams. CH2M HILL stated that the different orientations only relate to the frame method and do not amount to any performance difference in the design.

- f. CDM asked which method was preferred to deploy the geotextile. CH2M HILL stated that the sinking bar method is preferred.

## **2. Schedule, Logistics and Next Steps**

- a. Great Lakes will be working this week to reset anchors and test a new winch system.
- b. When the new winch system is working correctly, GLDD will be able to develop a schedule for the fabric deployment and rock removal. It is possible that work could start as early as late in the week of January 20 or as late as January 27<sup>th</sup>. **dmi will forward a schedule to EPA related to field activities when one becomes available.**
- c. Daily work schedule will be based upon the tides and may include evening hours to take advantage of high tides.
- d. dmi indicated that the LPR bridges appear to operational, but this is subject to winter precipitation which can divert crews from bridge service to road service, and cold temperatures which lead some bridge operators to refuse to open the bridges.
- e. **CH2M Hill will develop a Technical Memorandum for submittal to EPA indicating that they approve GLDD recommendations to allow changes in design specifications for fabric placement associated with the frame method.**

## **3. EPA coordination with dmi during Stan's absence**

- a. Stan Kaczmarek will be away between January 17<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup> on another project unrelated to the Passaic River. In Stan's absence John Rolfe will fill in for Stan. Stan asked EPA to send any e-mails, comments and requests for information to both Stan and John during this period.